

MINUTES
CLAY COUNTY SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
8:00 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015
ROOM B, 3RD FLOOR, CLAY COUNTY COURHOUSE

Members Present: Kevin Campbell, Roger Richman, Wayne Lepper, Russ McDougall, Everett Nelson, Chuck Hendrickson, Jim Haney, DiAnn Streifel, Joseph Pederson, Russ Colson

Members Absent: Grant Weyland

Others Present: Kirk Rosenberger, Larry Henry, Shannon Thompson, Beth Harries, Stephanie Reynolds, Colleen Eck, Kathy Ihle (all Clay County Solid Waste), Max Milinkovich, (Full Circle Organics), Mary Aldrich (MinnKota Recycling), Jay Leitch (AECOM, formerly known as URS), Steve Moore, Todd Bratlien, (City of Moorhead), Joe Herbst, Liz Overbo (Minnesota State University-Moorhead), Steve Skoog (Environmental Services, Becker County), Dave Olek (Fuchs Sanitation), Terry Ludlum (City of Fargo Solid Waste), Paul Kalibabky (Waste Management, West Fargo), Randy Hanson, Marlon Mackowick (Wenck Associates), John Buck (MPCA), Brian Berg (Clay County Administrator), Tim Magnusson (Clay County Planning), and Grace Lyden (The Forum)

On motion by Roger Richman seconded by Chuck Hendrickson, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the meeting agenda.

On motion by Everett Nelson, seconded by DiAnn Streifel, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the minutes from January 15, 2015.

Full Circle Organics

Max Milinkovich, President/CEO of Full Circle Organics, has six compost facilities around the States of Minnesota and Iowa which manage 300 to 400 tons of material a day between the facilities. Milinkovich is interested in doing a feasibility study for material diversion with Clay County, the City of Moorhead, surrounding towns, and waste/recycling haulers, to apply for a permit for a Pre-Processing Center and/or Organic Center.

Full Circle Organics is involved in source separated organic preprocessing, which is grocery store and school cafeteria material that is run through a processing machine that reduces material to particle size. Milinkovich said that with the grass, leaves, and brush available, he believes 30 to 50 ton a day could be processed. The finished compost would go toward local growth projects and back to the farm land. SCORE funding is available from the State of Minnesota for management of yard debris and brush.

The permit process would take about a year, and within that year Milinkovich would like to determine the source separated organic food capacity and yard debris volume, to be sure the carbons are secured, because without the grass, leaves, and brush, nothing can happen.

Kirk Rosenberger said Milinkovich would like to lease equipment that is jointly owned by the City and County. Full Circle Organics will be responsible for monitoring requirements associated with the facility and land improvements.

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by Everett Nelson, and unanimously carried, the committee recommended moving forward with the process of negotiating a lease agreement with Full Circle Organics. Said recommendation will be forwarded to County Board for final approval.

Feasibility Study

Jay Leitch introduced himself as working for AECOM, formerly known as URS Corporation. Leitch talked about the cost assessment of option C, which is the relocation and construction of the Highway 10 transfer station, the relocation of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) site, the relocation of the e-waste collection site next to the Motor Vehicle facility on 15th Avenue North; and construction and co-location of a clean Material Resource Facility (MRF), all at the Highway 75 site. Leitch said the estimate is approximately 17 million dollars.

Option C has the multiple advantage of having all solid waste handling facilities in one optimally designed location, modernizing all solid waste facilities, including a clean MRF to increase landfill diversion rates. Overall facility design would purposely include provisions for expansion. Option C would be financed with local funds, state grants, possibly foundation grants, and local bonding. Considerable cost savings could be realized through strategic management of the overall facility development process (i.e., purchase choices, more efficient building design, and/or self-management). Leitch said the next step is to apply for state grants, apply for foundation grants, identify owner/manager plan, identify operational partners/key account customers, prepare an operational business plan, do a Request for Proposal (RFP) for design or design build, or do nothing.

MinnKota Recycling

Mary Aldrich introduced herself as the sales manager for MinnKota. Aldrich said that MinnKota has worked with the City of Moorhead and Clay County for 20 years, developing and improving recycling programs for the residential and commercial sector. Aldrich said MinnKota has made a significant investment in their facility, equipment, and labor to sort, grade, and process material.

MinnKota is interested in continuing to work with the City of Moorhead and Clay County to help identify beneficial options and solutions that relate to the design and construction of the new transfer facility, and the MRF. MinnKota is in the process of developing test trials for a single stream residential collection program, which includes the operational challenges that MinnKota faces in the sorting and grading of those materials. Aldrich expressed that MinnKota is behind Clay County and the City of Moorhead, and is willing to work and collaborate for the new facility.

Becker County Solid Waste

Steve Skoog, Environmental Director of Becker County Solid Waste, said Becker County has made changes in their recycling program with the collection system. Becker County's long-term goal was to find a solution for solid waste, which they did by entering into an agreement with Perham Resource Recovery Facility, and their next step is to build a recycling facility. Skoog said Becker County is seeking funding to build a transfer station and a recycling facility, and would like to look at the project on a regional scale with the City of Moorhead and Clay County.

Landfill Updates

Larry Henry said that he didn't have much to report from the landfill other than the waste volumes are down.

Rosenberger said the scale software is installed and will training will begin next week. The Designation Plan, which requires that waste be taken to the landfill or the Transfer Station, has not been submitted, but will be submitted within the next 2 weeks. The PCA has 120 days to respond, and during that time the County will have negotiations with waste haulers.

On motion by Roger Richman, seconded by DiAnn Streifel, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.